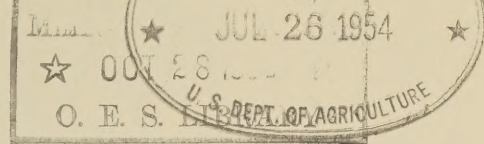


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION WORK
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Circular Letter
Rural Electrification - No. 8

October 20, 1939.

TO STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

As you know, the Rural Electrification Administration has recently become a part of the Department of Agriculture. When the Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act in 1936, it specified that the Administrator "may accept and utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of Federal, State, and local officers and employees as are available." While in most States the Extension Service has been very sympathetic to the Federal Rural Electrification program and has given it active support, it is the hope of the Secretary of Agriculture that an even closer collaboration between REA and the Extension Service will develop as a result of REA's transfer to the Department.

During the next few months, the REA plans to encourage completion of membership enrollment by REA cooperatives of farmers who have not yet made connection with the cooperative lines built to serve them. An REA field worker will be assigned to nearly every State to stimulate and to coordinate the work of the local committees. It is planned that these REA people shall get in touch with the State Directors of the Extension Service so that they may be able to get the benefit of your advice and assistance. We trust that you will find it possible to cooperate actively with REA in this and other educational efforts that may be undertaken later.

The REA program is essentially one which requires wholehearted community support for maximum effectiveness. The best way of building community support is through education. The farmers making up the rural community must be helped to understand the potential benefits of electricity to themselves and to the social and economic life of the community. We feel that the State and county extension staffs can be of great help in connection with such an educational program, and we know that REA will deeply appreciate any assistance you can give in these efforts.

Very truly yours,

Charles E. Burton

Director of Extension Work.

(Copy to Extension Editors.)

